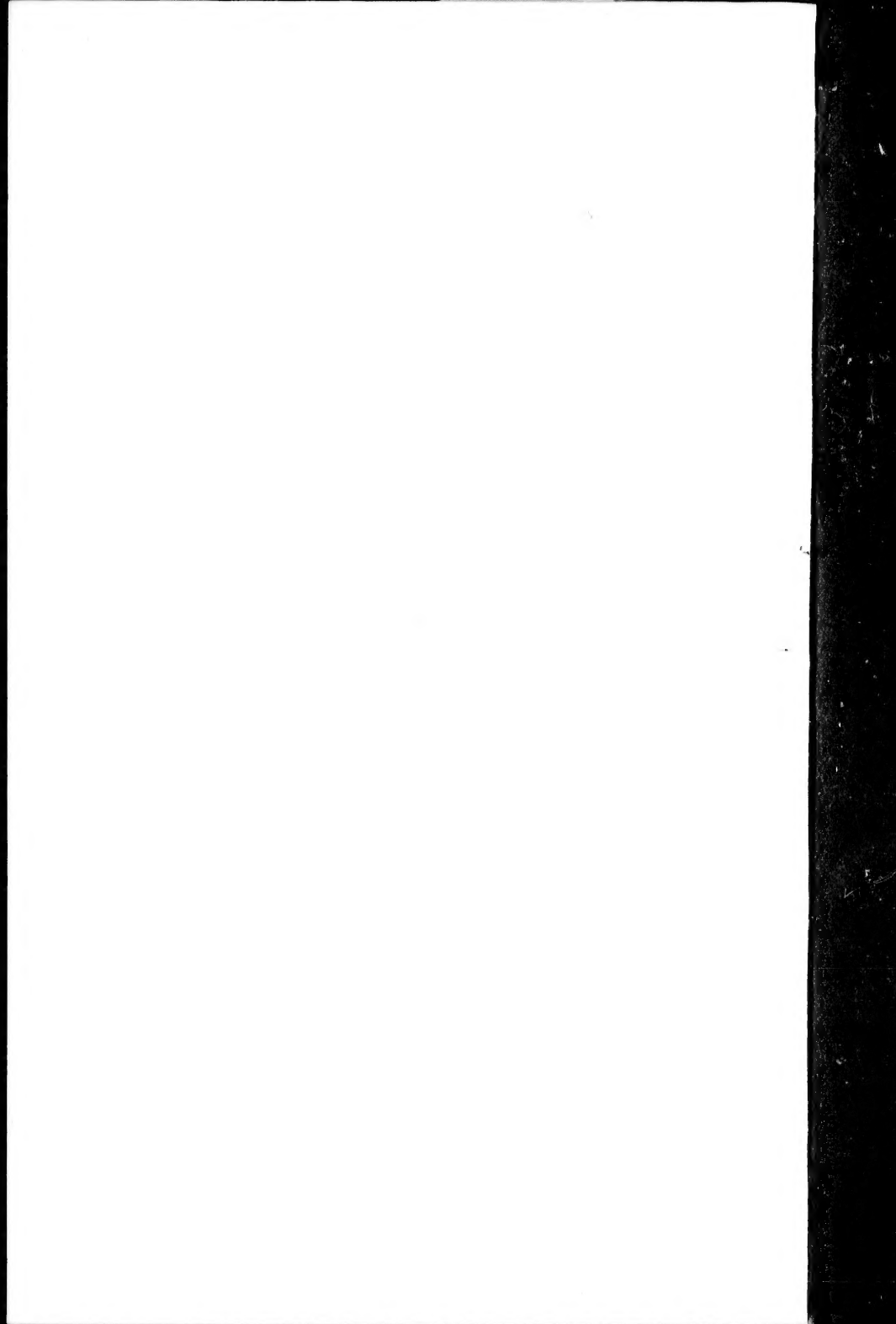




A DESCRIPTION
OF THE
PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA,
CONTAINING
INFORMATION OF INTEREST AND VALUE
TO
INTENDING EMIGRANTS.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF HIS HONOR THE LIEUTENANT
GOVERNOR AND THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

by
James F. Morrison



HALIFAX, N. S.,
PRINTED BY CHARLES ANNAND,
1870.

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PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Halifax, N. S., 18th January, 1870.

SIR,—

I have it in command to acquaint you that the Secretary of State for the Provinces has forwarded to this Department copies of letters from the several Emigrant Agents in Europe, in which they state that they are without any reliable official information respecting Nova Scotia, its suitability for the settlement of emigrants from Great Britain and the continent of Europe, and the class of emigrants most needed in the country, and who would be the most likely to succeed.

You will therefore, in your official capacity as Immigration Agent, have the goodness to furnish the required information as soon as possible.

I am, Sir,

Your obdt. servant,

W. B. VAIL,
Provincial Secretary.

T. F. MORRISON, Esq., M. P. P.,
Immigration Agent, Londonderry.

LONDONDERRY, N. S.,
January 28th, 1870.

SIR,—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 18th instant, acquainting me that the Government Emigration Agents in Europe require reliable information respecting the suitability of this Province for the settlement of emigrants from Europe, and the class of emigrants most needed in the country, and who would be the most likely to succeed.

In reply to which I respectfully submit the following pages, compiled partly from my own personal knowledge of the country, and partly from information and assistance kindly furnished by Mr. H. Crosskill, the Deputy Provincial Secretary, who has many times travelled over these Provinces, and

who understands thoroughly the resources, capabilities and requirements of Nova Scotia, and of each separate county. The description is a short, general one, but, I think, contains all the information asked for. Hitherto no move in the right direction has ever been made by the Government of Nova Scotia to induce the right class of emigrants to settle in the country. The Governments of the United States and Canada have always expended large sums of money for the encouragement of immigration, by which means they have immensely increased the population of their respective countries; and it is not probable that, while great inducements are held out to emigrants by the United States, Nova Scotia would ever become known as a home for emigrants unless some reliable official information, at least, be furnished, and circulated extensively throughout Europe.

While some other countries have succeeded, by a good deal of exaggeration, and even falsehood, in inducing immigration, I feel certain that nothing more than the truth need be told in reference to Nova Scotia to prove its superiority for a good class of emigrants. The large cities of the United States can readily absorb the pauper emigrants of Europe, and find a certain amount of employment for them; but this country cannot do so, and none but respectable emigrants, possessing a small amount of capital, could well succeed.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obd't. servant,

THOMAS F. MORRISON.

Hon. W. B. VAIL,
Provincial Secretary, Halifax.

NOVA SCOTIA.

The Province of Nova Scotia, in British North America, is a peninsula lying between 43° and 46° north latitude, and 61° and 67° west longitude. It is connected with New Brunswick by a narrow isthmus about 16 miles wide; its area is about 300 miles in length by 100 miles in width, at its widest part, containing about 10,000,000 acres, about one-fifth part of which consists of lakes and small rivers. Of the whole extent, about 5,000,000 acres of land are fit for tillage.

The sea-coast is very rough, rugged, and rock-bound, and travellers who have seen the coast only, or have stopped an hour or two at Halifax, can form no idea of the beauty and fertility of the interior of the country.

As a home for the better class of emigrants, Nova Scotia possesses many advantages over all the other North American Provinces; but it is no place for paupers, there are now as many laborers of the lower class as employment can be found for. *Employers are as much wanted as employes* in the country; good farmers, manufacturers, fishermen, miners, &c., would do well.

The resources of the different counties are so varied that a class of immigrants who would do well and make money in one county would barely make a living in another; some counties are adapted to agricultural pursuits, some to mining, and others to fishing, while all are suited for manufactures of various kinds, there being splendid water-power and other facilities in every county.

Annapolis, Kings, Hants, Lunenburg, Antigonish, Pictou, Colchester and Cumberland counties, with a large part of Yarmouth and Digby counties, are agricultural districts; Pictou and Colchester are also mining counties; Halifax and Guysborough combine mining and fishing. In Queens, Shelburne, Yarmouth, Richmond and Digby, fishing and shipbuild-

ing are extensively prosecuted. In Victoria and Inverness the inhabitants generally do a little in fishing, shipbuilding, and agriculture. Cape Breton is a coal mining district, and a very large amount of capital is employed in the business.

As all the counties have a frontage on the sea, fishing and shipbuilding are carried on to a certain extent in all, while in the counties best adapted to the prosecution of the latter business the people engage in farming on a small scale also. Annapolis takes the first rank for fruit-growing and general agriculture, Kings and Hants second; Lunenburg, Colchester, Pictou, Cumberland, and Antigonish, for general farming, second; but they are not good fruit-producing districts. Antigonish is a splendid grazing county, well adapted to dairy farming, and even now does a thriving business in butter and fat cattle with Newfoundland. In Annapolis and Kings counties all the best kinds of northern fruits are grown in perfection—apples, pears, quinces, plums, cherries, &c., are easily cultivated; peaches, grapes, and apricots are grown in the open air in many parts of both counties; but not for market, only in the gardens of private gentlemen for their own use.

All the small fruits, such as currants, gooseberries, raspberries, blackberries and strawberries, are abundant, both in a wild state and cultivated, and are very cheap.

In grain—wheat, rye, oats, barley, buckwheat and Indian corn, or maize, are each a sure crop. Potatoes, turnips, beets, carrots, parsnips, beans and peas, squash, pumpkins, melons, tomatoes, &c., are raised in large quantities. Sixty bushels of Indian corn, or three or four hundred bushels of potatoes are not an unusual crop per acre. Sorghum, broom-corn and tobacco have been successfully experimented with. All vegetables and fruit that are raised in the New England and Western States of America may be, and are successfully grown in Annapolis, Hants and Kings counties in Nova Scotia.

The county of Hants lies between Halifax and Kings counties, and is a very fine section of the Province. It possesses extensive marshes or dyked lands, which produce very heavy crops of excellent hay, and which require neither manure nor top-dressing; but continue to yield year after year, without

any trouble or expense to the owners but that of cutting the grass and making the hay. Falmouth, in the western part of the county, is a superior agricultural district, but the most of the land here is owned by wealthy individuals, and perhaps could not be purchased at as low a rate as some, not at all inferior, in other parts of the county.

Windsor and Hantsport are the principal towns, and at both places shipbuilding is extensively carried on. At Windsor a large trade is done in the shipment of gypsum.

The climate of the Province varies in the different counties, as the counties do in their capabilities and resources. Annapolis is the warmest, and averages about 6° warmer than the State of Massachusetts, 3° or 4° warmer than Kings and Hants, 5° or 6° warmer than Halifax and Colchester, and 7° or 8° warmer than Cumberland, Pictou, and the counties in the Island of Cape Breton, viz., Richmond, Victoria, Inverness, and Cape Breton. In Annapolis Valley the spring opens about two or three weeks earlier in the year than in Halifax, and the weather is generally drier, clearer, and free from fog. The mountain, at the north side of the valley, which skirts the shore of the Bay of Fundy, is high enough to prevent the sea fog coming over, and while it is sometimes damp and disagreeable weather at the north side of the mountain facing the Bay, only three or four miles away, in the valley it is delightfully warm and bright.

There is no better agricultural district north of Pennsylvania, nor any equal to it in British North America. Any English or Scotch farmer possessing money enough to purchase and stock a farm would do well here. A farm of one hundred acres would not cost as much as some farmers in Britain pay in rent for one year. Farms, already in good cultivation, of two hundred to five hundred acres, with houses, barns, &c., can be purchased at from £350 to £1500 sterling. Our farmers generally own and endeavor to cultivate too much land, consequently their farming is not good; one acre of land anywhere, highly cultivated, is more profitable than three acres poorly worked and always hungry for manure.

Annapolis county exports annually about 40,000 barrels of apples, a great deal of cider, and large quantities of superior

cheese; some of the latter made in this county is nearly or quite equal to the best English make. The upland and the marshes or dykes bordering the river produce splendid crops of hay. I have frequently seen, in the neighborhood of Bridgetown, four tons of timothy and clover on one acre of land.

For gentlemen of means who wish to retire from business, no more beautiful, healthy, or desirable location could be found in America. Game is tolerably abundant—woodcock, snipe, partridge, plover and duck shooting are first rate; moose, deer, foxes, and hares sometimes afford good sport, and there is capital trout fishing in the lakes among the mountains. The Province contains thousands of lakes and small streams in which good sport may be had, and no part of the country is more than thirty or forty miles from the salt water, where may be found the best sea fishing in the world. Salmon, cod, halibut, haddock, mackerel, herring, shad, &c., are abundant, and the shallow waters teem with large lobsters; the latter are often sold in the Halifax market for less than one shilling per dozen. Large shipments of smoked or red herrings are made at Annapolis and Digby. Those small fat herrings make their appearance annually in the river of Annapolis and Digby Basin, which is its outlet. Immense quantities of them are taken and cured, and quite a profitable business is done in the article. The Province possesses great resources in coal, iron and gold. Copper, lead, and tin ores have also been discovered in small quantities.

The coal mines are quite extensive, and number more than thirty, affording employment to thousands of people and a very large fleet of vessels, by which the coals are transported to other ports in the Province, to the United States and to other countries.

The production of gold from quartz rock is steadily increasing, and new mines and leads are being discovered almost daily, some of which are very rich in gold. The annual exports of this metal must, in a year or two, amount to millions of dollars. The quality is the best and purest yet discovered, and the quartz from which the gold is extracted is very abundant, and surpasses the best leads of California and Australia in richness.

Iron is also a staple production of the Province, and the business done by the Acadia Iron Mining and Manufacturing Company, at Londonderry, is very extensive. The quantity of ore on their property is inexhaustible, and the quality of iron manufactured is at least equal to the best Swedish.

Building stone of all kinds, lime stone, and brick and pottery clay are in good supply.

The forests contain a great variety of superior timber; oak, beech, birch, maple, ash, poplar, larch, spruce, fir, pine, hemlock, &c., all grow to a large size, and furnish a plentiful stock of building material and fuel. In short, and in fact, Nova Scotia surpasses every country of the same extent in the world in the variety and supply of natural resources.

Small towns and villages are scattered over the Province, which are accessible from the most remote districts by railways or good carriage roads, and in which all the necessities and luxuries of life may be obtained at moderate prices. All that an emigrant need supply himself with before leaving Europe is money; some kinds of clothing may be a shade cheaper in Britain than they are here, but that would not make a difference in a man's outfit of more than a few shillings, or, at most, of a pound or two if he requires a large supply.

Halifax, in the county of Halifax, the capital of the Province, is a city of about 35,000 or 40,000 inhabitants, and contains a mixed population of English, Scotch, and Irish; it has the proper proportion of churches, (of all denominations of christians,) school-houses, hospitals and other charitable institutions and asylums; and although the most of the houses are built of wood, there are many handsome stone and brick edifices, both public and private, which are quite equal in style and finish to those of larger cities in other and older countries. The harbor of Halifax is the finest in America; the Inman line of steam packets to and from Liverpool and New York stop here to land and receive passengers and freight. They frequently make the trip across the Atlantic in eight days.

Nova Scotia is therefore the most accessible of all the British Colonies, and emigrants who go to Australia, or who

pass Nova Scotia and proceed to the United States, very often "go farther and fare worse."

Travelling here by rail is 3 cents, or about 1½d. per mile; stage coach travelling is, of course, somewhat higher, but very little of that has to be done.

Immigrants from Europe would most naturally rather settle in parts where their own countrymen are the most numerous, such being the case Scotchmen would prefer Pictou or Antigonish county, or the counties in the Island of Cape Breton, which is separated from Nova Scotia proper by a narrow strait, averaging half a mile in width, called the Strait of Canso. North of Ireland people would choose Colchester, and Germans Lunenburg county. The latter county is settled almost entirely by Germans; it is a splendid agricultural district, and in quality of soil and beauty of scenery cannot be surpassed anywhere. All the other counties are settled by the descendants of English families, excepting Yarmouth and Digby, the population of which is partly composed of Acadian French. I would, however, not advise emigrants to this country to choose a locality merely because a people of their own race or religion are already settled there; all classes and religions are tolerated, and have equal rights in the Province, and no matter what a man's nationality or creed may be, if he be a respectable, well-behaved individual, he will be respected and well treated in any part of the country,—all have an equal chance of success.

Nova Scotia contains a population of about 370,000, and is steadily increasing. The climate is, at least, as healthy as any in the world; the summer is warmer and the winter somewhat colder than in England.

In Halifax and the eastern counties the mercury seldom rises in summer above 86° in the shade, and in winter it is not often down to zero. In the interior, say in the Annapolis valley, the winter is about the same, but the summer is considerably warmer, although, owing perhaps to the dryness of the atmosphere, the heat is not oppressive.

The Province exports lumber, fish, coal, iron, gold, building stone, gypsum, and general produce; and imports West India produce and European and American manufactures.

The exports amount to about \$9,000,000 and the imports to \$12,000,000 annually. The Province owns more shipping in proportion to the number of inhabitants than any other country; and Nova Scotia built ships may be found in every port in the world.

Wild lands may be obtained from the Government for about 1s. 9d. sterling per acre, but they are mostly covered with timber. It takes six or seven years to cut down the trees, eradicate the stumps from the land, and bring it under cultivation, and it is really more profitable to purchase five acres of land already under the plough than one hundred acres of forest land.

A farm of one hundred, or even fifty acres, is quite large enough for any industrious and practical farmer; and I would suggest that emigrants wishing to come to this country would do well to club together in joint stock companies of ten or twelve, and each company purchase a farm of 500 acres in one of the best agricultural districts, and divide it among them by lot or otherwise. In this way each would possess a farm quite large enough, and with sufficient land under cultivation to enable him to begin business at once, and get good returns the first season.

As a sheep-raising country there is perhaps no better locality in America, notwithstanding which there is not a single sheep farm in the Province, and perhaps not one regularly bred shepherd. Every farmer keeps a few sheep; but the flocks are seldom taken proper care of. A number of thoroughbred shepherds, who would introduce the best breeds of sheep, both for wool-producing and for mutton, would in a very few years make a small fortune. There is a great deal of land suitable for the purpose in every county; and even among the wild lands there are large tracts of open, rough pasture, that might be made capable of maintaining vast flocks of sheep at very little expense.

A good opening is presented in Nova Scotia for the establishment of manufactures of woollen and cotton goods; the climate is well adapted, and the facilities for obtaining the raw material, and for converting it into marketable manufactured goods, are equal to any in Europe, and the market for

them is quite extensive enough, as the Provinces, called now the Dominion of Canada, contain a population of four millions of people, whose wants are at present supplied mostly by European manufactures.

It would not, in my opinion, be advisable for the lower class of laborers to emigrate to this country at present, as there would be some difficulty in finding employment for more than a limited number. Perhaps a few hundreds of good practical miners would do well, as the prospect now is that our gold mines next summer will afford a demand for such workmen.

As a home for farmers of small means, and for half-pay officers or others with limited incomes, this country presents great advantages. Education is free to the children of all classes, and, although the people are taxed for the maintenance of the schools, general taxation is not by any means as great as it is in England or Scotland. House rent in the country is moderate, and provisions of all kinds are cheap, at the same time that they afford remunerative prices to the farmer. It pays a farmer better in this country to raise beef or mutton for 3d. or 4d. per lb. than it does in England or Scotland at 6d., for the simple reason that he does not have to pay an enormous rent for his farm, as he does in Britain.

I have now given a general idea of the Province, its resources, capabilities, climate, &c., and I am convinced that no other part of America possesses such advantages for a good class of emigrants as Nova Scotia.

Its nearness to Europe, and the facilities for rapid communication with the Mother Country is one advantage which should not be overlooked by intending emigrants; its exceedingly healthy climate is another, while the fruitfulness of the soil, and the extent and variety of the natural resources of the country, offer inducements to emigrants which are quite unequalled elsewhere.

In connection with the foregoing, the writer would suggest the formation in Great Britain, by the capitalists and others among the agriculturists, of a Joint Stock Nova Scotia Farming and Land Company, with a capital of, say £50,000 sterling, divided into 10,000 shares of £5. With this capital a number of large farms, already in good cultivation, could be pur-

chased in the best agricultural districts, which could be subdivided into several hundreds of farms, of from 50 to 100 acres each, such as would be worth in England from £2000 to £5000, and costing here, to the company, £100 to £250 each, many of them with good buildings already erected.

The shareholders of such a company should come out themselves, or send out good practical agriculturists to occupy the land.

Such a speculation could not fail to prove remunerative, and, as an investment for spare capital, would give large and sure returns.